

CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS--AN OVERVIEW

ANNCR: CANADA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER (ALLAN J.) MACLEACHEN IS IN WASHINGTON, MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SOME OF THE TOPICS THEY ARE DISCUSSING.

VOICE: FOR MOST OF THE TWO HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THE UNITED STATES BECAME INDEPENDENT, ITS RELATIONS WITH CANADA HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. THE REASONS ARE NOT HARD TO FIND. THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ARE EACH OTHER'S GREATEST TRADING PARTNERS. MORE THAN ONE-FIFTH OF ALL UNITED STATES EXPORTS GO TO CANADA. AND CANADA SUPPLIES THE UNITED STATES WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THAT FIGURE IN IMPORTS. BUT ASIDE FROM THAT PRAGMATIC REASON THERE ARE OTHERS--LESS TANGIBLE. CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE CLOSE CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL TIES-- THEY SHARE A COMMON BORDER STRETCHING ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT SOME FIVE THOUSAND KILOMETERS. MOST CANADIANS SHARE A COMMON LANGUAGE WITH AMERICANS--TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CANADIAN ACCENT IS OFTEN INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM SOME AMERICAN REGIONAL ACCENTS. AMERICAN BOOKS, TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMS ARE SHARED WITH THE CANADIANS TO A DEGREE AMOUNTING IN THE EYES OF MANY CANADIANS TO CULTURAL PENETRATION.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES IN TERMS OF ITS LINKS AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER MAJOR TRADING NATIONS AND POLITICAL ALLIANCES--ESPECIALLY NATO.

BUT THIS PROXIMITY AND IDENTITY OF INTERESTS HAS NOT ALWAYS INSURED PLACID CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. UNDERLYING THE OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS ARISING BETWEEN THEM HAS BEEN CANADA'S SENSE OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES.

FIVE YEARS AGO, THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK A SERIES OF SUBTLE CHANGES IN THAT RELATIONSHIP. THE THRUST OF THOSE CHANGES HAS BEEN TO DIVERSIFY OWNERSHIP OF CANADIAN INDUSTRY AND TO DEVELOP NEW MARKETS OVERSEAS FOR CANADIAN PRODUCTS. THE CANADIAN WORLD TRADE DRIVE HAS EMPHASIZED DEVELOPMENT OF ITS JAPANESE MARKET--ALREADY IMPORTANT--AND CLOSER TIES WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET. ON THE CULTURAL LEVEL, CANADA HAS TIGHTENED UP ON WHAT SOME CANADIANS SEE AS EXCESSIVE INFLUENCE BY AMERICAN MAGAZINES AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS.

THUS, CANADA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES IS LAUNCHED ON A NEW PHASE. LAST OCTOBER, SECRETARY KISSINGER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS FACT OF LIFE, WHEN HE VISITED OTTAWA. SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID: "WE USED TO SPEAK OF A 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP,' AND I AGREE THAT THAT NO LONGER EXISTS, IF IT EVER DID." NEVERTHELESS, HE CONTINUED, "WE CAN DEAL WITH EACH OTHER WITHOUT COMPLEXES;...WE CAN LIVE WITH DISAGREEMENTS... WE ALSO KNOW THAT DISAGREEMENT IS NOT PURSUED AS AN END IN ITSELF AND THAT WHEN WE DO AGREE--WHICH WE DO, AFTER ALL, ON THE VAST MAJORITY OF FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES--THAT AGREEMENT IS ALL THE MORE MEANINGFUL FOR HAVING BEEN FREELY ACHIEVED."

IN SO SAYING, SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS RECOGNIZING THE PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS FORMED THE BASIS OF THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP EVER SINCE IT STARTED TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THE THRUST OF THAT PHILOSOPHY--IT IS FAIR TO SAY--COLORS THE KISSINGER-MACEACHEN TALKS NOW.